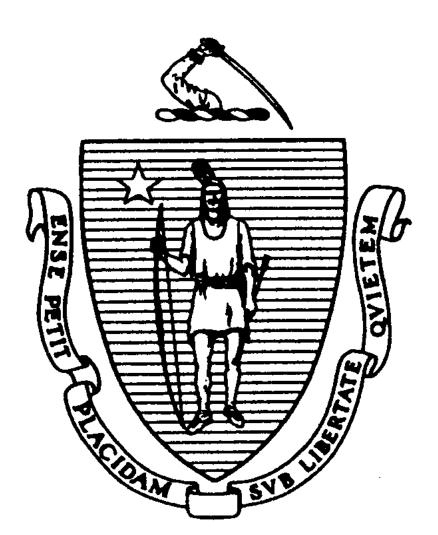
The Background
Characteristics and
Recidivism Rates of
Releases From
Massachusetts
Correctional Institutions
During 1994

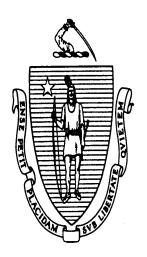
Massachusetts Department of Correction

Michael T. Maloney Commissioner

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April, 1998





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This report is accessible on the DOC website at www.magnet.state.ma.us/doc and is also available at the following libraries: State House Library, Library of Congress, Washington D.C., Boston Public Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Springfield City Library, Worcester Public Library.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Research and Planning.

Abstract

This report presents recidivism rates of 3,557 offenders released from Department of Correction facilities during 1994. Some highlights from this report are:

- The recidivism rate in 1994 was 24%, a 2% increase from the rate for 1993, but a 5% decrease from the 1990 rate.
- The recidivism rate varied by security level of the institution from which the offender was released: 35% for maximum, 28% for medium, 21% for minimum, 20% for minimum/pre-release, 19% for state pre-release, and 17% for contract pre-release.
- From 1993 to 1994 the recidivism rate for releases from maximum or medium security institutions increased from 26% 28%. Additionally, the recidivism rate for releases from lower security facilities rose slightly from 19% to 20%.
- The recidivism rate increased for both males and females from the 1993 figure of 22% to 24% in 1994.
- Among males, the recidivism rate was 25% for those serving Cedar Junction/State Prison sentences (compared to 22% for 1993), 30% for those serving Concord/Reformatory sentences (same as 1993), and 18% for inmates who subsequently transferred to the DOC from a commitment to a county or out-of-state facility (compared to 14% for 1993).
- Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons, the majority of which were parole violations. Of the 854 recidivists, 26% were returned for technical parole violations, 26% for parole violations involving a new arrest, 37% for reincarceration on a new sentence, 7% for probation violations, and 3% were awaiting trial.
- Offenders released by parole had a higher recidivism rate (32%) than those who were released by a discharge or expiration of sentence (18%).
- Offenders who were paroled following a parole or probation violation had a higher rate of recidivism (43%) than those who were first releases (28%). Offenders who were discharged following a parole or probation violation had a slightly higher rate of recidivism (20%) than those who were first releases (17%).
- The offense category with the highest recidivism rate for all releases was the property offense category (33%). For both males and females, property offenders had the highest recidivism rate at 35% and 29%, respectively.
- The recidivism rate for offenders without any prior adult incarcerations was lower (19%) than for those released with a history of one (29%) or more than one (32%) prior adult incarceration.
- Almost half of the recidivists returned to custody within the first six months of their release.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	i	Personal Background Characteristics	17
Abstract	ii	Age at Incarceration	18
		Race/Ethnicity	18
Table of Contents	iii	Sex	18
		Marital Status	19
Introduction	1	History of Drug Use	19
		Prior Address	19
Method	1	Occupation	20
		Last Grade Completed	20
Section One: 1994 Recidivism Rates	2	Military Discharge	20
Type of Return	2	Criminal History	21
New Offense	2		
Disposition of New Arrest	3	Prior Court Appearances	22
Time Until Return	4	Prior County Incarcerations	22
Institution Released From	4	Prior State or Federal Incarcerations	22
Type of Release	7	Total Prior Adult Incarcerations	23
Offender Characteristics	8	Prior Charges for Person Offenses	23
		Prior Charges for Sex Offenses	23
Section Two: Statistical Tables, 1994 Recidivism	10	Prior Charges for Property Offenses	24
		Prior Charges for Escape Offenses	24
Release Characteristics	10	Prior Charges for Alcohol Offenses	24
		Prior Charges for Drug Offenses	25
Type of Release	11	Age at First Court Appearance	25
Length of Incarceration	11	Age at First Court Appearance for an Alcohol Offense	26
Age at Release	11	Age at First Court Appearance for a Drug Offense	26
Nature of Present Offense	12	Release Follow-Up Outcomes	27
Court From Which Committed	13	Arrest Disposition by New Offense for Recidivists	
Jail Credits	13	28	
Committing Institution	13		
Present Offense	14	Appendix: Technical Notes	29
Person Offenses	14		
Sex Offenses	14	Table 45: Reason for Exclusion by Committing	
Property Offenses	15	Institution, 1994 Releases	29
Drug Offenses	15	Table 46: 1994 Recidivism Rates Including	
'Other' Offenses	15	'Time Served' Less Than 30 Days, by Sex	29
Minimum Sentence	16		
Maximum Sentence	16	Glossary	30

Introduction

This report presents a statistical description and the recidivism rates of offenders released to the street via expiration of sentence, good conduct discharge, or parole from Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) facilities during 1994.

Information contained in this report includes recidivism rates with regard to release variables, nature of present offense, personal background, criminal history, and release follow-up variables. Each table contains information describing characteristics of offenders released during 1994 and the recidivism rates for each of the categories of statistical data for these offenders.

There are two main sections to this report. Section One discusses selected variables in relation to recidivism rates. Some comparisons are made between the recidivism rates for the years 1990-1994. Section Two consists solely of statistical tables. When examining the tables, the reader should note the following: (1) 'N' represents the number of releases who fall into the corresponding category in the table; (2) 'Rec' represents the number of releases who are recidivists; (3) 'Rate' (Recidivism Rate) represents the percentage of releases in that category who have recidivated; (4) Some tables may not add to 100% due to rounding; (5) There is a relatively high amount of unknown information for the criminal history variables; and (6) The social demographic variables race/ethnicity, marital status, drug use, prior address, occupation, last grade completed, and military discharge are self-reported by the offender at the time of commitment.

For example, upon referring to the first table on page 11, the variable "Type of Release" is presented and the following types of information may be obtained:

- The number of releases by type of release (parole, and GCD/expiration of sentence) is presented vertically;
- Of the 3,557 total releases during 1994, 1,554 were released on parole and 2,003 were released by a certificate of discharge or by expiration of sentence;
- Of the parole releases, 496 were recidivists (yielding a recidivism rate of 32%).

Method

A recidivist is defined as any release who is reincarcerated in a Massachusetts correctional institution, or to a house of correction/jail for at least 30 days within a year of their date of release to the street. This includes parole violators as well as those offenders sentenced for new crimes.

During 1994, there were 3,557 releases from DOC facilities where the offender had been incarcerated in a state facility for at least 30 days. This included 2,906 males and 651 females. Any release of an offender who was incarcerated for less than 30 days or where the release was not to the community (i.e., released to a new sentence at a state, federal or county facility, or released to and held on a warrant) was excluded from the sample. In the case of inmates transferred from houses of correction to Longwood Treatment Center, the time spent in county facilities was not counted toward the 30 day required stay. An analysis of the cases excluded from the sample and an explanation of the 'time served' calculation appears in an Appendix to this report (Technical Notes).

Section 1: 1994 Recidivism Rates

Recidivism data is manually collected through various sources. The sources used to compile recidivism information include the Department of Correction VAX Inmate Database, Board of Probation (BOP) criminal history data, DOC inmate six-part folders, and folders maintained by the Parole Board. Additionally, phone calls are placed to courts and county houses of correction to gather additional information on particular cases.

There were 3,557 cases in the 1994 sample. Of these, 854 offenders returned to custody during the one year period following their release date, yielding a recidivism rate of 24%.

Table 1 presents the distribution of the type of return for recidivists. This variable indicates whether an offender was reincarcerated as a result of being charged with or convicted of a new offense, or as a result of a technical violation of parole or probation. The emphasis of this variable is on why, and where the offender

was returned to custody, not the type of sentence received.

Table 1: Type of Return by Sex

	Mal	<u>e</u>	<u>Fen</u>	<u>nale</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>tal</u>
TYPE OF RETURN	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	N	<u>%</u>	N	<u>%</u>
Parole Violation - Technical	191	27%	32	21%	223	26%
Parole Violation - New Arrest	211	30%	15	10%	226	26%
Commitment - HOC	139	20%	14	9%	153	18%
Commitment - DOC	91	13%	72	47%	163	19%
Jail - Awaiting Trial	19	3%	4	3%	23	3%
Probation Violation - Technical	9	1%	2	1%	11	1%
Probation Violation - New Arrest	41	6%	14	9%	55	6%
TOTAL	701	100%	153	100%	854	100%

Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons, the majority of which were parole violations. Of the 854 offenders reincarcerated during the follow-up period, 26% were returned for technical parole violations, 26% for parole violations involving a new arrest, 37% for commitments to a county house of correction or a DOC facility to serve a new sentence, 3% to jail, to await trial on a new offense, and 7% were returned for violations of probation.

The proportions within these categories differ for male and female offenders. For the 701 males reincarcerated during the follow-up period, 27% were technical parole violators, 30% were parole violators with new arrests, 33% were committed for new sentences, 3% were awaiting trial, and 7% were returned to custody for probation violations .

For the 153 female recidivists, 21% were technical parole violators, 10% were parole violators with new arrests, 56% were committed for new sentences, 3% were awaiting trial on a new offense, and 10% were returned to custody for probation violations.

Unless an offender is returned to custody for a technical parole or probation violation, reincarceration is most likely the result of

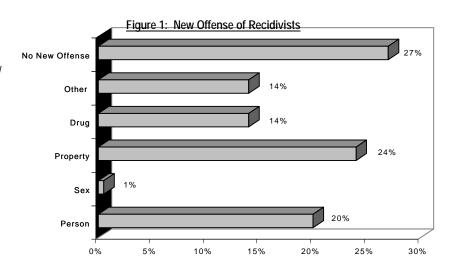
a new arrest. The variable 'new offense' refers to the most *serious* offense that results in a conviction during the one year follow-up period.

Of the 854 recidivists, 620 (73%) had a return type that involved a new offense: parole violation with a new arrest, county commitment to a house of correction, commitment to DOC, awaiting trial, or probation violation with a new arrest. Twenty percent of recidivists were returned for a person offense, 1% for a sex offense, 24% for a property offense, 14% for a drug offense, and 14% for an 'other' offense.

A. Disposition of New Arrest

Disposition of new arrest refers to the sentence received by an offender as a result of a new arrest. It is important to note that the disposition of new arrest does not refer to the type of facility the offender was incarcerated in as a result of that arrest. For example, an offender could be reincarcerated for a parole violation with a new arrest in a DOC facility, although the disposition of that new arrest eventually results in a county sentence.

For those returned for a county or state commitment it is clear that they received a new sentence. For those who returned within the one year follow-up period, but were awaiting trial, the outcome was yet to be determined. However, for those who were reincarcerated on a parole or probation violation with a new arrest, the disposition of that arrest provides data



as to the outcome of the case (i.e. were they found not guilty or guilty, and if found guilty, what was the result?). Of parole violators with a new arrest, 3% were found not guilty, 41% received a house of correction sentence, 11% received a state sentence, 12% received a fine, suspended sentence, or probation, 6% of the cases were continued, 12% of the cases were filed, and 15% of the cases were dismissed.

Of probation violators with new arrests, 53% received a house of correction sentence, 33% received a state sentence, 2% received a fine, suspended sentence, or probation, 9% of the cases were filed, and 3% of the cases were dismissed.

Overall, of the parole violators returned with a new arrest, 65% of their arraignments resulted in a conviction, with the offender receiving a new sentence, fine, suspended sentence, or probation. For probation violators with a new arrest, 88% of the arraignments resulted in a conviction, with the offender receiving a new sentence, fine, suspended sentence, or probation.

Time Until Return

Table 2 presents data, by sex, on the length of time the offender was in the community before being reincarcerated. Of the 854 recidivists, about half (48%) returned to custody within 6 months of their release, 26% between 6 and 9 months, and 26% between 9 months and 1 year.

Table 2: Time Until Return Among Recidivists, by Sex

	Ma	ale	Fei	male	To	otal
Time Until Return	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Within 1 Month	26	4%	17	11%	43	5%
1 Month - 3 Months	122	17%	28	18%	150	18%
3 Months - 6 Months	174	25%	44	29%	218	26%
6 Months - 9 Months	195	28%	29	19%	224	26%
9 Months - 1 Year	184	26%	35	23%	219	26%
TOTAL	701	100%	153	100%	854	100%

For males, 4% returned to custody within one month following their release, 17% between 1 and 3 months, 25% between 3 and 6 months, 28% between 6 and 9 months, and 26% between 9 months and a year after their release.

Among female offenders, 11% were returned to custody within one month of release, 18% between 1 and 3 months, 29% between 3 and 6 months, 19% between 6 and 9 months, and 23% between 9 months and a year following their release.

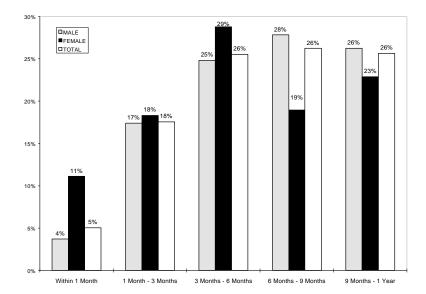


Figure 2: Time Until Return by Sex

Institution Released From

Compared to recidivism rates for 1993, the recidivism rate for releases from maximum security stayed constant at 35%, while recidivism rates for medium, minimum, and minimum pre-release facilities increased. The recidivism rates for state and contract pre-release facilities decreased from 1993 to 1994 (See Table 3).

Table 3 displays the decrease in the recidivism rate from 1990 (29%) to 1994 (24%). For releases from maximum security facilities, the recidivism rate dropped from 53% in 1990 to 35% in 1994. Significant decreases were also seen for releases from medium security facilities, from 35% in 1990 to 28% in 1994, minimum security facilities (33% to 21%), and contract pre-release facilities (22% to 17%).

Data presented in Table 4 reveal the recidivism rate by the releasing institution and its corresponding security level. For 1994, the recidivism rates were directly proportional to the security level released from: as the security level decreased, so did the recidivism rate. The recidivism rate was the highest among releases from maximum security (35%). Recidivism rates were lower for releases from medium (28%), minimum (21%), minimum/pre-release (20%), state pre-release (19%), and contract pre-release facilities (17%).

Table 3: Recidivism Rates by Security Level, 1990-1994

Security Level	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	Absolute Change 93-94
Maximum	53%	41%	40%	35%	35%	0
Medium	35%	34%	27%	25%	28%	(+3)
Minimum	33%	19%	18%	16%	21%	(+5)
Min/Pre-Release	21%	21%	15%	19%	20%	(+1)
State Pre-Release	22%	25%	12%	20%	19%	(-1)
Contract Pre-Release	22%	22%	29%	24%	17%	(-7)
All Facilities	29%	27%	22%	22%	24%	(+2)

Figure 3: Recidivism Rates by Security Level, 1990 and 1994

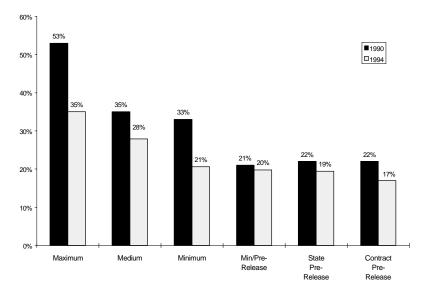


Table 4: Recidivism Rates by Security Level of Releasing Institution

Security Level*	Non-Recidivists	Recidivists	Total	Rec Rate
Maximum				
Cedar Junction	60	33	93	35%
Subtotal	60	33	93	35%
Medium				
Bay State	3	0	3	0%
Concord	153	87	240	36%
Framingham**	349	128	477	27%
NCCI-Gardner	86	39	125	31%
Norfolk	96	37	133	28%
Old Colony C.C.	79	27	106	25%
Shirley Medium	186	72	258	28%
Southeastern C.C.	239	72	311	23%
Subtotal	1,191	462	1,653	28%
Minimum				
MA Boot Camp	164	46	210	22%
Northeastern C.C.	136	32	168	19%
Subtotal	300	78	378	21%
Minimum/Pre-Release				
Lancaster	138	32	170	19%
Longwood	218	16	234	7%
Plymouth	135	37	172	22%
Pondville	79	20	99	20%
Shirley Minimum	193	54	247	22%
South Middlesex	131	61	192	32%
Subtotal	894	220	1,114	20%
State Pre-Release				
Boston State	79	17	96	18%
Park Drive	54	14	68	21%
PPREP	86	22	108	20%
Subtotal	219	53	272	19%
Contract Pre-Release				
Brooke House	24	2	26	8%
Charlotte House	10	5	15	33%
Houston House	5	1	6	17%
Subtotal	39	8	47	17%
Grand Total	2,703	95/	3,557	24%

^{*}Security level designations represent security levels from the DOC count sheet of 12/29/94.

^{**}Releases from Hodder House included in Framingham count.

Type of Release

Data presented in Table 5 show recidivism rates by type of release and the corresponding security level of the releasing institution. Overall, the recidivism rate was higher for persons released on parole (32%) than for those who were discharged (18%).

Individuals released by parole are supervised by Table 5: Recidivism Rates by Type of Release and Security Level of a parole officer for a period of time following Releasing Institution their release, whereas individuals released by expiration of sentence or certificate of discharge are not, unless they are required to serve a probation term.

In addition to the type of release, recidivism rates also vary based on whether the release was the offender's first release from the present sentence, or if the release followed a prior parole or probation violation (Table 5). Among parolees, first releases had a recidivism rate of 28%, while the recidivism rate for parole/probation violators was 43%. For

Type of Release		ecure cilitie		Lowe	r Sec	urity	7	otal	
	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate
Parole									
First Release	329	117	36%	813	203	25%	1,142	320	28%
Parole/Probation Violator	253	112	44%	159	64	40%	412	176	43%
Subtotal	582	229	39%	972	267	27%	1,554	496	32%
Expiration of Sentence/ Discharge									
First Release	844	190	23%	626	63	10%	1,470	253	17%
Parole/Probation Violator	320	76	24%	213	29	14%	533	105	20%
Subtotal	1,164	266	23%	839	92	11%	2,003	358	18%
Total	1,746	495	28%	1,811	359	20%	3,557	854	24%

offenders discharged from their sentence, the recidivism rate for first releases was 17%, while it was 20% for parole/probation violators.

When the data are compared by security level of the releasing institution, the recidivism rate was 36% for first releases paroled from maximum or medium security institutions, and 25% for first releases paroled from lower security institutions. For those paroled from maximum or medium security who were parole/probation violators, the recidivism rate was 44% compared to 40% for parole/probation violators who were released from lower security.

The recidivism rate for offenders released by expiration of sentence or good conduct discharge was 23% for first releases from maximum or medium security, and 10% for first releases from lower security. For those who were discharged, but had a prior parole/probation violation on the present sentence, the recidivism rate was 24% for those released from maximum or medium security, and 14% for those released from lower security.

Table 6: Recidivism Rates by Type of Release and Sex of Offender

Type of Release	N	lales		Fe	emale	S	T	otal	
	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate
Parole									
First Release	928	269	29%	214	51	24%	1,142	320	28%
Parole/Probation Violator	382	168	44%	30	8	27%	412	176	43%
Subtotal	1,310	437	33%	244	59	24%	1,554	496	32%
Expiration of Sentence./Discharge First Release	1,117	173	15%	353	80	23%	1,470	253	17%
Parole/Probation Violator	479	91	19%	54	14	26%	533	105	20%
Subtotal	1,596	264	17%	407	94	23%	2,003	358	18%
Total	2,906	701	24%	651	153	24%	3,557	854	24%

Table 6 shows recidivism rates by type of release for males and females. For both male and female offenders we find that those released by parole have a higher recidivism rate

than those released by expiration of sentence or good conduct discharge, with male parolees having the most pronounced difference in recidivism rates.

Males released by parole had a recidivism rate of 33%, while males released by discharge had a recidivism rate of 17%. The rate for females released by parole was 24%, while those discharged had a recidivism rate of 23%. For both males and females, there was a lower rate of recidivism for first releases than for parole violators, regardless of release type. For females who were paroled, first releases had a recidivism rate of 24%, while the parole/probation violators had a rate of 27%. In the expiration of sentence/discharge category for females, first releases had a recidivism rate of 23%, while parole violators recidivated at a rate of 26%.

Offender Characteristics

Table 7 displays recidivism rates for male and female offenders by race, age at release,

present offense, and prior adult incarcerations. Overall, the recidivism rate was identical (24%) for males and females.

As revealed in Table 7, Caucasian inmates had a recidivism rate of 22%, while the recidivism rate for Hispanic inmates was 24%, and the rate for African American inmates was 28%. The 'other' category, which includes Asian and American Indian inmates, had a recidivism rate of 17%. The patterns were different for males and females. For males, the recidivism rates for African American and Hispanic releases were 29% and 25% respectively, while the recidivism rate for Caucasian male releases was 21%. For females, the recidivism rate for African American releases was 26%, while Caucasian releases had a rate of 24%, and Hispanic releases recidivated at a rate of 20%.

The section on age at release and sex of offender shows that younger offenders generally have higher rates of recidivism than older offenders. The 22-25 year old age group had the highest recidivism rate (32%) for males, while the 21 years and under category for females had the highest recidivism rate with 32% (65 and Older had a rate of 50%, but was based on just 2 cases).

In terms of present offense, the recidivism rate was highest for property offenders (33%), followed by person offenders (26%), drug offenders (21%), sex offenders (15%), and 'other' offenders (13%). For males, the highest recidivism rate was for property offenders (35%), followed by person offenders (27%), drug (20%), sex (15%), and 'other' (9%) offenders. For female offenders, property offenders also had the highest recidivism rate (29%), followed by drug offenders (26%), 'other' (19%), and person offenders (19%). The sex offense category had no recidivists (N=5).

The final section of Table 7 on recidivism by prior adult incarcerations and sex of offender shows a higher recidivism rate for those with a history of one or more prior adult incarcerations than for those without any prior adult incarcerations. Overall, the recidivism rate was 19% for offenders without any prior adult incarcerations versus a 29% recidivism rate for those with one prior adult incarceration, and a 32% recidivism rate for those with two or more prior adult incarcerations. This pattern is similar for males and females. For males, those without any prior adult incarcerations had a 19% recidivism rate, while those with one prior adult incarceration, or those with more than one prior adult incarceration recidivated at higher rates (29% and 32%, respectively). Females without any prior adult incarcerations had a 14% recidivism rate, those with one prior adult incarceration had a 32% recidivism rate, and those with more than one prior adult incarceration had a 36% recidivism rate.

Table 7: Recidivism Rates by Selected Characteristics and Sex of Offender

Selected Characteristics	ľ	Males		Fe	emales			Total	
	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate
Race									
Caucasian	1516	322	21%	423	101	24%	1939	423	22%
African American	900	258	29%	117	30	26%	1017	288	28%
Hispanic	483	120	25%	106	21	20%	589	141	24%
Other	7	1	14%	5	1	20%	12	2	17%
Age at Release									
21 Years and Younger	250	76	30%	38	12	32%	288	88	31%
22-25 Years	527	171	32%	115	31	27%	642	202	31%
26-29 Years	561	151	27%	136	30	22%	697	181	26%
30-39 Years	1053	242	23%	271	63	23%	1324	305	23%
40-64 Years	506	61	12%	89	16	18%	595	77	13%
65 and Older	9	0	0%	2	1	50%	11	1	9%
Present Offense									
Person	1177	315	27%	116	22	19%	1293	337	26%
Sex	259	40	15%	5	0	0%	264	40	15%
Property	565	196	35%	180	53	29%	745	249	33%
Drug	619	125	20%	161	42	26%	780	167	21%
Other	286	25	9%	189	36	19%	475	61	13%
Prior Adult Incarcerations									
None	1113	214	19%	136	19	14%	1249	233	19%
One	425	123	29%	57	18	32%	482	141	29%
Two or More	673	214	32%	86	31	36%	759	245	32%
Unknown	695	150	22%	372	85	23%	1067	235	22%
TOTAL	2906	701	24%	651	153	24%	3557	854	24%

Section Two: Statistical Tables, 1994 Recidivism Release Characteristics

Type of Release	N	Rec	Rate
Parole	1554	496	32%
Discharge/Expiration	2003	358	18%
Total	3557	854	24%

Length of Incarceration	N	Rec	Rate
Less Than 6 Months	1076	262	24%
6 To 11 Months	534	105	20%
1 To 2 Years	673	180	27%
2 To 3 Years	550	158	29%
3 To 5 Years	477	111	23%
5 To 10 Years	197	33	17%
10 To 15 Years	36	5	14%
15 or More Years	14	0	0%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 10

Age at Release	N	Rec	Rate
18 Years or Younger	37	9	24%
19 Years	67	25	37%
20 Years	80	18	23%
21 Years	104	36	35%
22 Years	131	42	32%
23 Years	168	43	26%
24 Years	176	62	35%
25 Years	167	55	33%
26 To 29 Years	697	181	26%
30 To 39 Years	1324	305	23%
40 To 49 Years	449	66	15%
50 To 59 Years	121	10	8%
60 Years or Older	36	2	6%
Total	3557	854	24%

Nature of Present Offense

Table 11

Court From Which Committed	N	Rec	Rate
Barnstable	53	17	32%
Berkshire	50	12	24%
Bristol	157	35	22%
Essex	354	101	29%
Franklin	16	3	19%
Hampden	344	93	27%
Hampshire	22	3	14%
Middlesex	605	135	22%
Nantucket	1	0	0%
Norfolk	176	55	31%
Plymouth	140	38	27%
Suffolk	710	190	27%
Worcester	421	105	25%
Other Jurisdiction	462	58	13%
From & After Sentence	46	9	20%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 12

Jail Credits	N	Rec	Rate
None	1411	269	19%
1 To 10	292	56	19%
11 To 50	468	141	30%
51 To 100	376	105	28%
101 To 150	358	122	34%
151 To 200	219	55	25%
Over 200	433	106	24%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 13

Committing Institution	N	Rec	Rate
Cedar Junction	1768	436	25%
Concord	681	206	30%
Framingham	245	56	23%
Other Jurisdiction	863	156	18%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 14

Present Offense	N	Rec	Rate
Person	1293	337	26%
Sex	264	40	15%
Property	745	249	33%
Drug	780	167	21%
Other	475	61	13%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 15

Person Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
Not a Person Offense	2264	517	23%
Murder-2	13	1	8%
Manslaughter	85	12	14%
Vehicular Homicide	17	3	18%
Assault w/ Intent To Murder	49	9	20%
Armed Robbery	536	165	31%
Unarmed Robbery	207	67	32%
Armed Assault	83	18	22%
Unarmed Assault	12	4	33%
Assault, Other	58	10	17%
Assault & Battery, DW	187	41	22%
Kidnapping	14	3	21%
Other Person Offense	32	4	13%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 16

Sex Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
Not a Sex Offense	3293	814	25%
Rape	54	11	20%
Aggravated Rape	31	7	23%
Assault w/Intent To Rape	30	7	23%
Rape of Minor	108	11	10%
Assault w/Intent To Rape Minor	36	3	8%
Crimes Against Chastity/Morality	5	1	20%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 17

Property Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
Not a Property Offense	2812	605	22%
Arson	39	9	23%
Burglary-Armed	30	7	23%
Burglary	361	146	40%
Possession of Burglary Tools	5	2	40%
Stealing	32	9	28%
Larceny-Person	21	8	38%
Larceny	116	21	18%
Vehicle Theft	34	12	35%
Forgery-Uttering	33	13	39%
Receiving Stolen Goods	49	15	31%
Other Property Offenses	25	7	28%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 18

Drug Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
Not a Drug Offense	2777	687	25%
Possession of Syringe	10	4	40%
Conspiracy To Violate CSA	30	6	20%
Controlled Substance-Not Specified	49	10	20%
Class-A	177	45	25%
Class-B	470	95	20%
Class-C	3	0	0%
Class-D	9	0	0%
Poss. w/Intent To Sell School Zone	17	4	24%
Other Drug Offenses	15	3	20%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 19

'Other' Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
Not an 'Other' Offense	3082	793	26%
Escape	13	1	8%
Weapons Violation	79	12	15%
Disturbing the Peace	5	1	20%
Prostitution	87	26	27%
Motor Vehicle Offenses	33	6	18%
Contempt of Court	6	4	67%
Operating Under the Influence	229	9	4%
Other	23	2	9%

Total	3557	854	24%

Minimum Sentence	N	Rec	Rate
1 Year	2	0	0%
2 Years	29	4	14%
3 Years	479	112	23%
4 Years	225	63	28%
5 Years	266	62	23%
6 Years	240	75	31%
7 Years	127	36	28%
8 Years	98	27	28%
9 Years	143	31	22%
10 Years	102	11	11%
11 To 12 Years	69	13	19%
13 To 15 Years	42	10	24%
16 To 19 Years	24	3	13%
20 Or More Years	9	2	22%
Life	13	1	8%
No Minimum [↑]	1689	404	24%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 21

Maximum Sentence	N	Rec	Rate
Less Than 1 Year	485	101	21%
1 Year	280	59	21%
2 Years	243	41	17%
3 Years	27	3	11%
4 Years	14	2	14%
5 Years	601	132	22%
6 Years	112	28	25%
7 Years	254	77	30%
8 Years	89	24	27%
9 Years	68	18	26%
10 Years	788	225	29%
11 To 12 Years	124	29	23%
13 To 15 Years	182	40	22%
16 To 19 Years	39	12	31%
20 Or More Years	237	62	26%
Life ⁺	14	1	7%

 $^{\ ^{\}uparrow}$ Offenders serving county or reformatory sentences only have maximum sentences. Inmates serving out of state sentences may not have minimum sentences.

16

⁺ One offender was released in 1994 who was serving a minimum term of years and a maximum term of life.

Total	3557	854	24%

Personal Background Characteristics

Table 22

Age at Incarceration	N	Rec	Rate
15 Years	1	1	100%
16 Years	4	1	25%
17 Years	31	10	32%
18 Years	114	33	29%
19 Years	130	40	31%
20 Years	140	35	25%
21 Years	168	57	34%
22 Years	183	50	27%
23 Years	158	48	30%
24 Years	179	50	28%
25 Years	159	45	28%
26 To 29 Years	675	170	25%
30 To 39 Years	1189	257	22%
40 To 49 Years	318	51	16%
50 To 59 Years	85	4	5%
60 Years or Older	23	2	9%
Total	3557	854	24%

Race/Ethnicity	N	Rec	Rate
Caucasian	1939	423	22%
African American	1017	288	28%
Hispanic	589	141	24%
Other	12	2	17%
Total	3557	854	24%

Sex	N	Rec	Rate
Female	651	153	24%
Male	2906	701	24%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 25

Marital Status	N	Rec	Rate
Married	546	100	18%
Single	2575	681	26%
Divorced	258	36	14%
Widowed	27	8	30%
Common Law	3	0	0%
Separated	146	29	20%
Unknown	2	0	0%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 26

History of Drug Use	N	Rec	Rate
None	616	113	18%
Type of Drug Not Specified	210	56	27%
Heroin	288	83	29%
Other	205	57	28%
Marijuana Only	43	13	30%
Unknown	2195	532	24%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 27

Prior Address	N	Rec	Rate
Boston	844	236	28%
Brockton	113	25	22%
Cambridge	60	9	15%
Fall River	57	16	28%
Fitchburg	53	13	25%
Framingham	42	7	17%
Holyoke	60	19	32%
Lawrence	106	34	32%
Lowell	152	33	22%
Lynn	106	23	22%
New Bedford	72	19	26%
Quincy	51	15	29%
Springfield	235	59	25%
Worcester	201	61	30%
Other MA	1280	274	21%
Out of State	125	11	9%
Total	3557	854	24%

Occupation	N	Rec	Rate
Professional	44	7	16%
Management	96	6	6%
Clerical	103	16	16%
Services	719	164	23%
Blue Collar/Manual	1177	279	24%
Agriculture	5	1	20%
Armed Services	2	0	0%
At Home	20	5	25%
Student	24	5	21%
Jobless	11	1	9%
Unknown	1356	370	27%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 29

Last Grade Completed	N	Rec	Rate
Unknown	553	151	27%
3rd Grade or Less	14	2	14%
4th Grade	9	2	22%
5th Grade	14	3	21%
6th Grade	29	2	7%
7th Grade	75	21	28%
8th Grade	159	33	21%
9th Grade	314	70	22%
10th Grade	443	127	29%
11th Grade	436	127	29%
H.S. Graduate/GED	1163	250	21%
Some Post- Secondary	271	60	22%
16 Years	62	4	6%
17 or More Years	15	2	13%
Total	3557	854	24%

Military Discharge	N	Rec	Rate
No Service	2641	658	25%
Honorable	216	28	13%
Dishonorable	15	1	7%
Bad Conduct	38	2	5%
Medical	3	1	33%
Discharge Unknown	24	3	13%
Unknown	620	161	26%
Total	3557	854	24%



Table 31

Prior Court	N	Rec	Rate
Appearances First Offense	132	18	14%
Two	162	13	8%
	_	_	
Three	146	34	23%
Four	133	18	14%
Five	131	28	21%
6 To 8	392	73	19%
9 To 11	379	106	28%
12 To 15	319	90	28%
16 To 20	281	89	32%
More Than 20	415	150	36%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 32

Prior County Incarcerations	N	Rec	Rate
None	1313	249	19%
One	497	147	30%
Two	259	80	31%
Three	152	45	30%
Four	102	36	35%
5 or More	167	62	37%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 33

Prior State or Federal Incarcerations	N	Rec	Rate
None	2184	521	24%
One	221	76	34%
Two	49	11	22%
Three	24	9	38%
Four	8	0	0%
5 or More	4	2	50%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 34

Total Prior Adult Incarcerations	N	Rec	Rate
None	1249	233	19%
One	482	141	29%
Two	263	77	29%
Three	166	51	31%
Four	107	34	32%
5 or More	223	83	37%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 35

Prior Charges for Person Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
None	535	94	18%
One	285	61	21%
Two	305	75	25%
Three	219	68	31%
Four	221	57	26%
Five	135	41	30%
6 To 8	337	83	25%
More Than 8	453	140	31%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Prior Charges for Sex Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
None	2102	535	25%
One	140	44	31%
Two	97	21	22%
3 or More	151	19	13%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 37

Prior Charges for Property Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
None	487	68	14%
One	256	48	19%
Two	215	41	19%
Three	164	44	27%
Four	145	34	23%
Five	117	26	22%
6 To 8	249	84	34%
More Than 8	857	274	32%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 38

Prior Charges for Escape Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
None	2269	531	23%
One	149	61	41%
Two	49	19	39%
3 or More	23	8	35%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 39

Prior Charges for Alcohol Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
None	1740	434	25%
One	367	110	30%
Two	163	28	17%
Three	84	20	24%
Four	54	8	15%
5 or More	82	19	23%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 40

Prior Charges for Drug Offenses	N	Rec	Rate
None	963	193	20%
One	313	105	34%
Two	250	69	28%
Three	177	34	19%
Four	155	36	23%
5 or More	632	182	29%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 41

Age at First Court Appearance	N	Rec	Rate
12 Years or Younger	83	23	28%
13 Years	42	11	26%
14 Years	56	16	29%
15 Years	73	17	23%
16 Years	96	26	27%
17 Years	780	234	30%
18 Years	358	118	33%
19 Years	217	47	22%
20 Years	134	32	24%
21 To 25 Years	337	61	18%
26 To 29 Years	127	17	13%
30 To 39 Years	135	15	11%
40 To 49 Years	44	2	5%
50 To 59 Years	6	0	0%
60 Years or Older	2	0	0%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 42

Age at First Court Appearance for an Alcohol Offense	N	Rec	Rate
Not Applicable	1740	434	25%
15 to 17 Years	100	28	28%
18 to 19 Years	197	51	26%
20 to 21 Years	131	41	31%
22 to 24 Years	116	27	23%
25 to 29 Years	111	21	19%
30 to 39 Years	78	13	17%
40 to 49 Years	16	4	25%
50 and Older	1	0	0%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Table 43

Age at First Court Appearance for a Drug Offense	N	Rec	Rate
Not Applicable	963	193	20%
6 to 14 Years	12	6	50%
15 to 17 Years	226	79	35%
18 to 19 Years	326	94	29%
20 to 21 Years	253	81	32%
22 to 24 Years	237	65	27%
25 to 29 Years	234	61	26%
30 to 39 Years	190	33	17%
40 to 49 Years	43	7	16%
50 or Older	6	0	0%
Unknown	1067	235	22%
Total	3557	854	24%

Release Follow-Up Outcomes

Table 44. Arrest Disposition by New Offense, for Recidivists

Arrest Disposition	Person	Sex	Property	Drug	Other	No New Offense	Total
Not Applicable	103	1	109	67	59	234	573
Not Guilty	3	0	2	0	1	0	6
County Commitment	23	0	42	23	33	0	121
State Commitment	20	2	13	7	2	0	44
Fine, SS, Probation	4	0	8	8	9	0	29
Continued	4	0	5	5	0	0	14
Filed	2	1	14	5	10	0	32
Dismissed	13	0	9	4	9	0	35
Total	172	4	202	119	123	234	854

Appendix: Technical Notes

This study draws its cases from a cohort of offenders released to the community from the Department of Correction

during 1994 by parole, good conduct discharge, or expiration of sentence. From the original data file, 206 cases were excluded for purposes of the recidivism study. There were three reasons why cases were excluded: 1) an error in the data file, i.e., the person was not released or the release was not a parole, expiration, or discharge; 2) the offender was not released to the community, but released to a from and after sentence or warrant; or 3) the offender served less than 30 days in custody prior to release.

It should be noted that in calculating 'time served', the day the person started serving their sentence and the day of release were both credited toward 'time served'. 'Time served' is calculated using the offender's date of incarceration plus any jail credits applied to the sentence while awaiting trial. However, if the offender was received from a house of correction, another state's facility, or the Federal Bureau of Prison, 'time served' does not incorporate jail credit time. If an offender returns from an escape lasting longer than 29 days, or returns on a probation or parole violation, their date of return is utilized as the date of incarceration in the 'time served' calculation.

Table 45 shows an analysis of cases excluded from the study: eighty-seven percent were cases where 'time served' was less than 30 days, 11% were due to data errors in the release file, and 2% were because the release was not to the community.

Due to the large number of cases that were excluded from the analysis because 'time served' was less than 30 days, a subsequent analysis was conducted to determine what impact the inclusion of these cases might have on recidivism rates.

Follow-up information was collected on the 143 females and 36 males. For females, forty-four of the cases were reincarcerated for 30 days or more within a year of their release. Of the 36 males who served less than 30 days, 15 recidivated. Table 46 shows that if these cases had been included in the study, the recidivism rate for females would have increased by 1%, while the overall recidivism rate and the rate for males would have (24% for both) remained the same.

Table 45: Reason For Exclusion by Committing Institution, 1994 Releases

Reason for	Cedar	Concord	Framingham	Other	Total
Exclusion	Junction			Jurisdiction	
Release File Error	10	4	3	6	23
Not Released to	1	1	0	2	4
Community					
Time Served Less	14	18	21	126	179
Than 30 Days					
Total	25	23	24	134	206

Table 46: 1994 Recidivism Rates Including 'Time Served' Less Than 30 Days, by Sex

Sex of Offender	More Than 30 Days			Less Than 30 Days					Total
	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate	N	Rec	Rate
Male	2906	701	24%	36	15	42%	2942	716	24%
Female	651	153	24%	143	44	31%	794	197	25%
Total	3557	854	24%	179	59	33%	3736	913	24%

Glossary

AGE AT INCARCERATION

the

Jail credits are included in calculation of age at

incarceration.

DOC

Department of Correction

EXPIRATION

Expiration of Sentence

GCD

Good Conduct Discharge

HOC

House of Correction

LENGTH OF INCARCERATION

In the past, was referred to as 'time served'. 'Time served' was calculated using the offender's commitment date and release date, whereas length of incarceration is calculated utilizing the incarceration and release dates gathered through the recidivism data

collection process.

OFFENSES

Armed Assault

to

Includes assault with intent rob - being armed, armed assaults in dwelling houses, and armed assault to steal a

motor vehicle.

Assault - Intent to Murder

to

Includes assault with intent murder, attempted murder, and accessory to murder.

Includes assault, assault and

battery, assault on

and

Assault, Other

an officer. assault not before

mentioned.

Assault w/Intent to Rape of Minor

Includes assault on person under sixteen with intent to

commit rape, and indecent assault and battery on child

under 14.

Class A Includes possession, sale,

manufacturing, distribution, dispensing of a Class A controlled substance (Heroin,

Morphine) or intent to do any of the above. Same as above, but for Class B Class B controlled substance (Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Cocaine). Class C Same as above, but for C controlled substance (LSD, Class Hash). Class D Same as above, but for Class D controlled substance (Marijuana). Class E Same as above, but for Class E controlled substance (Prescription Drugs). Includes contempt of court, Contempt of Court violation of a court order, and violation of a restraining order. Includes unnatural and Crimes Against Chastity/Morality lascivious acts, incest, fornication, lewd lascivious cohabitation, open and gross lewdness. indecent exposure, pornography, and other pornography obscenities. **CSA** Controlled Substance Act Other Includes nonsupport, unlawful possession of alcohol, trespassing, false alarm of fire, attempt to commit crime, habitual criminal, resisting arrest, bribery, drunkenness, gaming, and other. Other Drug Includes possession of

narcotic drugs, stealing narcotics, inducing another to violate the narcotic drug law, sale of narcotics, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of narcotics (All inactive historical codes). Other Person Includes confining or putting

> a person in fear for the purpose of stealing,

> > extortion,

mayhem, conspiracy, and violation

of civil rights.

Other Property Includes common and

> notorious thief, fraud, and malicious or wanton injuries

to property.

OUI Operating Under the

Influence.

Prostitution Includes common night

> walker, deriving support from a prostitute, and

prostitution.

Rape of Minor Includes rape of person

under sixteen, and rape of

child.

Includes common receiver of Receiving Stolen Goods

stolen goods.

Unarmed Assault Includes assaults with intent

to rob - not being armed.

Vehicle Offenses Includes motor vehicle

offenses, and leaving the

scene.

Vehicle Theft Includes theft of a motor

vehicle, and use without

authority.

Weapons Offenses Includes weapons offenses,

and weapons violations.

PV Parole Violation

SECURITY LEVELS

•MCI-Cedar Junction Maximum Security

(Walpole)

Medium Security Bay State Correctional Center (7/10/91 and After)

> •MCI-Concord •MCI-Framingham

•MCI-Norfolk

MCI-Shirley (Medium)

Medium (continued)	 North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI)-Gardner Old Colony Correctional Center (OCCC) Southeastern Correctional Center (SECC)
Minimum Security	 Massachusetts Boot Camp Northeastern Correctional Center (NCC) Southeastern Correctional Center-Minimum
Minimum/Pre-Release	 Hodder House Longwood Treatment Center MCI-Lancaster MCI-Plymouth MCI-Shirley (Minimum) Pondville Correctional Center(PCC) South Middlesex Correctional Center
State Pre-Release	Boston StatePark DrivePPREP (Pre-Parole Residential Environment Program)
Contract Pre-Release	Brooke HouseCharlotte HouseHouston House